given to man for a wise purpose, so should they be wisely cultivated, and therefore exercised on the works of creation, with which they are in perfect harmony. No wonder, then, that the mechanics are so deficient in information on drawing and design. No one will ever learn the one or the other by having their faculties exercised on artificial objects. If we examine the works of the ancient designers, we shall be sure to see in them correct representations of natural forms—shewing that they were accurate observers in Nature's boundless field: and when corruption worked its way in among them, they turned after its contaminating influence, and began to fancy all sorts of vagaries and vain imaginations, as half-human and half-beast, added together to patch up a being, shewing the designer's ignorance and consummate impudence in the bargain. From those times to these more or less has common sense been insulted with monstrous productions—the result of a vicious education. Let us then keep clear of false art and wrong instruction. It is much more important that the poorer classes should have the best instructors, as their minds cannot afford a loss. Not so with those who are not obliged to work for their living, as they do not depend upon the soundness of instruction for their support. Happy ignorance will not distress the wealthy, but to a certainty it will turn out of employ the dependent. That most important class, the mechanics, who, by their toil and laborious ingenuity, house their employers against the raging elements, and secure to them numberless comforts, are highly entitled to the best exercise of their intellectual faculties, that a due reward for their great services they may receive when poverty and ill-health may deprive them from purchasing it. They are too valuable a class of men to be neglected, and though, unfortunately, from ignorance and a want of prudence, they often neglect to benefit themselves when they have it in their power, yet as the wealthy commit the same faults, they are highly entitled to be assisted with sound instruction, when with themselves every one would be considerably the gainer by their increase of intellect. And, if this due cultivation of their intellectual faculties was begun at the time they enter school, they would arrive at a certain state of proficiency in drawing and design, so as to be of importance and value to their masters at the very time they would enter into their apprenticeship, and which value would be more than an equivalent to a premium; but permit me to state again that none other than sound instruction will do to arrive at that proficiency here enforced; for any thing less than the truth will be sure to lead to confusion—and there is plenty of the latter to convince any one who will open his eyes to see what the superficial and artificial systems have already produced. Most assuredly there is enough of nonsense already without adding to it. If a builders' school is established upon true principles, I will, if wanted, add to its efficiency. In the interim, if required, and classes are formed, I will, with Mr. Barker, do my utmost to bring them forward on the true principles of drawing and design, when I am sure they will become as much better mechanics as they will be improved as artists.

I have more to say upon this important subject, and will do so as soon as I can find time to do so.

I am, Mr. Editor, truly yours,

GEORGE R. LEWIS.

61, Upper Norton-street,
August 21, 1843.

FRESCO.—A letter, signed "A Traveller," has been addressed to the *Spectator*, from which we extract the following important passage:—"'Fresco' has a grand sound in the ears of men ignorant of the practice of art. They know the 'Stanze of the Vatican' were painted in fresco by Raffaelle and the 'Capella Sistina' by Michael Angelo: and because this mode of working has not been much practised in England, they think it confers critical consequence to assert that English artists cannot do it. Not so, however, says the most experienced fresco-painter of the age. I happened to be at Sir Robert Peel's when the Director Cornelius, on his last visit to England, was courted to give his opinion on the subject; and from long personal acquaintance I know Cornelius to be an honest man and no flatterer. He said, English artists seemed to him to be especially qualified to become excellent fresco-painters: the harmonious arrangement of colour and boldness of execution, for which they are remarkable, would add a new charm to the art in their hands. When deficient drawing was suggested as an impediment, he said, the necessity of preparing elaborate cartoons would compel a mode of study that had never yet been called for in England; and it was not just to presume the talent could not be found till the call were made. In the case of decorating the Houses of Parliament, he recommended the immediate arrangement of subjects, and setting about the designs, though the walls might not be ready to receive painting for some years."—*Art Union*.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL RESEARCHES IN GREECE.

The *Athenæum* of Saturday, Aug. 5, contains a letter signed George Finlay, in which a most interesting account is given of the excavations, discoveries, and restorations that have been effected at Athens during the last ten years. The date of the letter is "July, 1843," and the object of the writer was to awaken the attention of those in this country who are capable of rendering effective service to the cause of archæology. The following passage will amply repay perusal:—

* * * * *

In 1837, a new era dawned on Greece. Public opinion extended its influence everywhere, and the government was compelled to abandon all the outworks of its anti-Hellenic system, in order to defend Bavarianism in the central departments of public business. An Archaiological Society was then formed by the Greeks themselves, and it exists to this day, though its funds are not very large, as the annual subscription of the members is only about 10*s*. 6*d*., and from the Report drawn up and published by the president and secretary, it appears that a large proportion have allowed even this small subscription to fall into arrear during the last two years. This Society has nevertheless rendered great service to art and literature, and its affairs have been conducted in the most popular and prudent manner. One general meeting has been held annually in the Parthenon, in the open air, and all the world has been free to attend; nor have the meetings failed to attract some of the fair dames from distant lands, who have chanced to visit Athens at the time. Indeed it must be owned, that such sights can never fail to leave agreeable reminiscences. The unrivalled splendour of the setting sun, seen from the Acropolis, has excited many a noble verse: an assembly of Greeks discussing in their own language the affairs of their ancestors—the venerable president, Mr. Rizos, eloquently expounding the new light thrown on some point of ancient history, in which he shines far more than in penning dispatches as Minister of Foreign Affairs—all this makes a stranger proud on such an occasion to be a member of this society, or even to have attended one of its meetings. At this annual meeting a committee of management is elected, the report of the proceedings of the previous year is read, and any question concerning the administration and application of the funds determined. The excavations already made have been very successful, and reflect great credit on the committee of management.

The entrance to the Acropolis has been cleared, and all the ruins and rubbish which encumbered the centre of the propylæum have been removed. All the modern buildings have been taken down which blocked up the northern wing, and the pinakotheke is now completely laid open. A considerable portion of the cell of the Erechtheium has been re-constructed, by replacing the ancient blocks which had fallen, and a sixth caryatide has been found, so that the little portico might be restored, except for the one in the British Museum.

But the most important labour of the society is the clearing the basement of the Parthenon, and the restoration of those parts of the building which were uninjured, to the original places. The northern side has been completely cleared from the earth and rubbish which covered the fragments of the temple, which now remain exposed to view in ruined majesty. A well-preserved metope, three more pieces of the frieze, and several fragments of sculpture from different parts of the temple have been found—amongst the rest a colossal owl, about whose position the Athenian antiquaries have expressed a multitude of opinions. The old mosque in the centre of the Parthenon has disappeared, but it was not removed until the fall of its portico warned the conservator of antiquities to remove all the fragments of sculpture it contained, and destroy it, lest it should destroy something valuable, by the fall of its heavy dome. The centre of the Parthenon would have presented a very meagre appearance after the removal of the mosque, and even the general appearance of the Acropolis would have lost something of its picturesque beauty, had nothing been done to enable the eye to connect the two masses of building which formed the eastern and western fronts, and which were left almost entirely unconnected by the explosion of the Turkish powder magazine, during the last siege of Athens by the Venetians. Several columns in this interval have been almost restored from the fragments found merely overturned by the explosion; thirty-four drums of columns on the northern side have been replaced in their original positions, and twelve on the south side. Part of the wall of the cella, and several of the large marble flags of the pavement have likewise been replaced.

These excavations have not been made on the principle adopted by Klenze, the celebrated Bavarian architect, who visited Greece in 1834, in order to propose a plan for the restoration of the Parthenon, and choose a site for the palace of King Otho. He seems to have been equally unfortunate in his opinions on both subjects, though his hurried visit may afford some apology, if his orders were not to exceed the time he devoted to the subject. In this work, published after his return, he expresses some alarm lest the actual palace should be flooded by the Ilyssus, and with regard to the restoration of the Parthenon, he considered it sufficient to take any drum of any column at hand, the diameter of which nearly corresponded with the spot it was to occupy, and replace it on the column to be restored. In this way he replaced one of the drums of a column on the northern side of the temple, where it still remains, as a specimen of the unsightly figure which the Parthenon would have been rendered had his plan been adopted. I cannot, myself, understand how a learned scholar and an architect of the classic school, like Klenze, could have entertained the idea of defacing a work of the purest architectural taste in this manner. It is well known that no two columns of the Parthenon correspond exactly. The axis of no column being exactly through its centre, every column has likewise an inclination towards the centre of the building, and the basement on which they stand, and the architrave which they support rises in the middle of the side. Since the time of Verres nothing so unclassical has been done in the way of restoration, and one would almost fancy Mr. Klenze appreciated so little the true principles of Hellenic art, that he considered it sufficient to make a column perpendicular.

The society adopted a very different principle, as they considered the plan of Mr. Klenze implied a re-making, not a restoration, of the Parthenon. No piece of marble has been replaced, unless in the position it occupied before the explosion removed it. The Athenian antiquaries considered that it will be time enough to discuss the question, how far restoration ought to be carried, when all the fragments in the Acropolis still prostrate have been reinstated in their original positions.

Numerous interesting discoveries have likewise been made, but they appertain too exclusively to the domain of the antiquary and topographer to be interesting to general readers. Part of a sculptured frieze of black Eleusinian marble belonging to the Erechtheium was found near that building. An excavation behind the propylæum has exposed to view a beautiful specimen of a building destroyed to make way for the magnificent gateway to the Acropolis, built by Pericles. Many of the sites of temples and monuments mentioned by Pausanias, have been ascertained, and the inscription on the Trojan horse has been found on a vase in the position he mentions that he read it. Much, it is to be hoped, will be found, when it is in the power of the society to clear out the southern side of the Parthenon, as they have done the northern. Only about the half of the metopes of this side are in the British Museum, and one is in the Museum of the Louvre, so that there seems every probability that many may be found covered with the rubbish, which, from the lowness of the level of the soil on this side, has accumulated in a greater degree than on the north.

In the town, a considerable space has been cleared out round the tower of Andronicus Kyrrhestes, or the Temple of the Winds, as it was formerly called. In common conversation it is now called the Temple of Eolus, and forms an appropriate termination to one of the new streets, of course Eolus-street. An excavation was also made by the society in the Theatre of Bacchus, and near it a curious statue of Silenus, with a young Bacchus sitting on his shoulder, and holding a mask in his hand, was found.

As a contrast to the labours of the society, I shall now mention a proof of the archaiological zeal and judgment of the central government. For some years no one was allowed to build, nay, the houses half built, were ordered to be left unfinished, within a certain limit, and government determined to purchase all the ground for excavation. Many individuals remained ill-lodged, with half-finished houses, and paying enormous rents for upwards of eighteen months. Suddenly the government plans were changed, and orders were given to build a large barack within the sacred inclosure; and in order to remove any respect to Hellenic ruins part of the building was erected on one of the existing walls of the gymnasium of Hadrian, near the old Turkish bazaar, while the rest of the area was filled up with a layer of rubbish seven feet deep.

The services which the Archaiological Society of Athens has rendered to Europe, may be appreciated from this fact. It could not, however, have accomplished at much as it has already executed, had it not received several donations from Western Europe; and its labours would have been interrupted last year if his Majesty the King of the Netherlands had not sent a donation of 300 drachmas. A request was lately transmitted to Mr. Bracebridge, who has been a liberal promoter of the cause of education in Greece, to attempt the formation of a society, or the

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